

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 10, 2003

SENATE BILL

No. 834

Introduced by Senator Bowen

February 21, 2003

An act to add Section ~~713~~ 709.9 to the Public Utilities Code, relating to public utilities.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 834, as amended, Bowen. Public utilities: *high speed communications services*.

Existing law authorizes the Public Utilities Commission to supervise and regulate every public utility in the state. *Existing law requires the commission to convene a proceeding, by April 1, 2003, to develop a plan for encouraging the widespread availability and use of advanced communications infrastructure.*

This bill would ~~declare the intent of the Legislature to establish policies, in subsequent legislation, to reform the regulation of public utilities~~ *require the commission to convene a proceeding to consider how to encourage more competition in the provision of high speed communications services. The bill would require the commission to submit a report to the Legislature of its findings and recommendations by July 1, 2004.*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: ~~no~~ yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 ~~SECTION 1. Section 713 is added to the Public Utilities~~
2

1 *SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the*
2 *following:*

3 *(a) The policy of the state is to encourage the deployment of*
4 *new telecommunications technology in a way that encourages the*
5 *ubiquitous availability of a wide choice of state-of-the-art*
6 *services.*

7 *(b) The Public Utilities Commission has found that in most*
8 *cities, customers do not have a choice among high speed*
9 *communications services.*

10 *SEC. 2. Section 709.9 is added to the Public Utilities Code, to*
11 *read:*

12 709.9. *(a) The commission shall convene a proceeding to*
13 *consider how to encourage more competition in the provision of*
14 *high speed communications services and shall make appropriate*
15 *recommendations to the Legislature.*

16 *(b) The commission shall submit a report to the Legislature of*
17 *its findings and recommendations by July 1, 2004.*

18 ~~Code, to read:~~

19 ~~713. It is the intent of the Legislature, in subsequent~~
20 ~~legislation, to establish policies to reform the regulation of public~~
21 ~~utilities.~~

